

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI  
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

**DONALD W. BARBER**

**PLAINTIFF**

**v.**

**CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:22-cv-00317-TBM-RPM**

**MERIT HEALTH HOSPITAL, *et al.***

**DEFENDANTS**

**MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER OF DISMISSAL**

This matter is before the Court *sua sponte* on *pro se* Plaintiff Donald W. Barber's failure to comply with Court Orders. Plaintiff filed this lawsuit on November 18, 2022, under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. [1], p. 3.

On January 10, 2023, the Court ordered Plaintiff to file a written response to clarify certain aspects of this lawsuit on or before January 24, 2023. [9], pp. 1-2. Plaintiff was warned that "[f]ailure to advise the Court of a change of address or failure to timely comply with any order of the Court . . . may result in this lawsuit being dismissed without prejudice and without further notice." [9], p. 2. That Order [9] was mailed to Plaintiff at his last-known mailing address, and it was not returned to the Court as undeliverable. Plaintiff did not comply with the Court's Order [9] by the January 24 deadline.

On January 30, 2023, the Court ordered Plaintiff to show cause why this case should not be dismissed for his failure to comply with the Court's Order [9]. [10], p. 1. Plaintiff's responsive deadline was extended to February 13, 2023, and he was warned again "[t]hat failure to advise the Court of a change of address or failure to timely comply with any order of the Court . . . will result in this lawsuit being dismissed without prejudice and without further notice to Plaintiff." [10], pp. 1-2. The Order to Show Cause [10], with a copy of the Court's January 10 Order [9], was mailed

to Plaintiff at his last-known mailing address, and it was not returned to the Court as undeliverable. Plaintiff did not comply with the Court's Orders [9] [10] by the February 13 deadline.

On February 17, 2023, the Court entered a Second and Final Order to Show Cause [11], directing Plaintiff to "explain why this case should not be dismissed for failure to comply with the Court's Orders [9] [10]." [11], p. 2. Plaintiff was ordered to file a written response on or before March 3, 2023. [11], p. 2. Plaintiff was also ordered, on or before the March 3 deadline, to comply with the Court's January 10 Order [9] by "answer[ing] the questions posed therein." [11], p. 2. Plaintiff was warned again "[t]hat failure to advise the Court of a change of address or failure to timely comply with any order of the Court . . . **will result** in this lawsuit being dismissed without prejudice and without further notice to Plaintiff." [11], p. 2 (emphasis in original). Plaintiff was cautioned that this was his "final opportunity to comply with the Court's Orders [9] [10]." [11], p. 2. The Second and Final Order to Show Cause [11], with a copy of the Court's January 10 Order [9] and January 30 Order [10], was mailed to Plaintiff at his last-known mailing address, and it was not returned to the Court as undeliverable.

Plaintiff did not timely comply with the Second and Final Order to Show Cause [11], and he has not communicated with the Court about his lawsuit since January 3, 2023—despite being warned six times that a failure to comply or to notify the Court about a change in address may lead to the dismissal of his case. *See* [3], p. 2; [5], p. 2; [7], pp. 2-3; [9], p. 3; [10], p. 2; [11], p. 2.


The Court may dismiss an action for Plaintiff's failure to prosecute under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) and the Court's "'inherent power' . . . to manage [its] own affairs." *Link v. Wabash R.R. Co.*, 370 U.S. 626, 630–31, 82 S. Ct. 1386, 8 L.Ed.2d 734 (1962); *see also McCullough v. Lynaugh*, 835 F.2d 1126, 1127 (5th Cir. 1988). "The Court must be able to clear its calendar of

cases that remain dormant because of the inaction or dilatoriness of the party seeking relief, so as to achieve the orderly and expeditious disposition of cases.” *Fauzi v. Royal Hospitality Services, LLC*, No. 1:14-cv-83-HSO-RHW, 2016 WL 3166581, \*2 (S.D. Miss. Jun. 6, 2016) (citing *Link*, 370 U.S. at 630). “Such a ‘sanction is necessary to prevent undue delays in the disposition of pending cases and to avoid congestion in the calendars’ of the Court.” *Id.* (quoting *Link*, 370 U.S. at 630-31). In this case, lesser sanctions than dismissal have not prompted “diligent prosecution” but have instead “proved to be futile.” *See Tello v. Comm’r of Internal Revenue*, 410 F.3d 743, 744 (5th Cir. 2005) (quoting *Berry v. CIGNA/RSI-CIGNA*, 975 F.2d 1188, 1191 (5th Cir. 1992)).

Since Plaintiff has failed to comply with three Court Orders [9] [10] [11], the Court finds that this case should be dismissed without prejudice under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) for failure to prosecute and for failing to respond to a Court order.

**IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** that this matter is **DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE**.

**THIS, the 23rd day of March, 2023.**

  
 TAYLOR B. McNEEL  
 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE